



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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REDFORD RETURN PREPARER GOES TO JAIL ON TAX CHARGES

Shannon Robertson, of Redford Township, Michigan, was sentenced yesterday to 48 months probation, announced United States Attorney Barbara McQuade. United States District Court Judge Marianne O. Battani also ordered him to pay \$108,573 in restitution to the IRS. In December 2009, Robertson pleaded guilty to filing a false personal income tax return, signed under penalties of perjury, and aiding and abetting in the preparation of a false income tax return.

United States Attorney McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court records, during 2005 and 2006, Robertson was employed by Sofar, Inc, a tax preparation service doing business as Jackson Hewitt, in Detroit, Michigan. During this time, Robertson willfully prepared 32 fraudulent tax returns claiming false filing status, dependents, income, withholdings, and business expenses, knowing that these taxpayers were not entitled to claim these items. As part of the scheme, Robertson created over \$400,000 in income to maximize credits and refunds for these taxpayers, causing a total loss of over \$108,000 to the IRS. Robertson also claimed a false filing status on his personal tax return, signed under penalties of perjury.

"No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them," said Aouate. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

United States Attorney McQuade thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Delonis.